

My dad was a Korean War Vet, which precursed Vietnam War; it did awful things to him. When one is fighting demons, s/he does not see anything but those monsters. Not a spouse, kids, not even a self in the mirror only Devils. He did great hiding his horrors, mostly – but sometimes when the raging beast overcame him it attacked swiftly, viciously, brutally, and violently. I briefly saw it in his eyes during ‘a mood’ as we called it. Dad was not in there; something else very evil possessed the man. He never remembered his rages; I can never forget them or the **bloody, violent, brutality...** The difference between then as a child and now as an adult is, that I understand why he was the way he was: **military and War create vicious animals from otherwise gentle, civilized people.** However, as a terrified child staring into the face of the ‘god’ that created me in his likeness and image, I could never understand why the demons of his War unleashed their fury upon me...perhaps the ‘sins’ of our fathers and now mothers, not of their making, passed onto their children? Let us not forget the families destroyed by those sins, too. Where were America, politicians, VSO’s, VA, and Vet helping agencies for Korean Vets like my dad – or their families – when they were salvageable? Maybe later - came too little, too late for them. Funny how each passing generation erases such crimes until they re-manifest in descendants – the children. *Living with a crazy Vet is tiresome and all but the strongest of women, kids and relatives can do it.* Mom was a tough woman putting up with my dad; the ex-wife did her best with me, too. I harbor no blame against that woman; the problems were too monstrous for us – alone. Maybe with the help that she and I needed...and sought but did not get, a better life that might have been, which now will never be known. However, I have to live with my problems; she does not. Veteran suicide has existed in US since WW1, but was covered up as ‘other causes’ of death hiding America’s shame that our soldiers, their families and children are forced to carry alone. Not much has changed since except, perhaps, better PR, lip service and propaganda hiding that national disgrace. Moreover, VA is caring for veterans as it would like the public to believe: families, friends, spouses, good Samaritan strangers, some vet charities, siblings, children, civilian healthcare, insurance, public healthcare, medicare, medicaid, state and local government clinics and hospitals, and Social Security disability picks up all those denied vet claims VA supposedly spends annual hundred billions of taxpayer money to do. More background unsung heroes are actually doing it while VA takes budget and credit for what is not doing at all!! Only 50 cents of every five dollars of VA budget actually goes to vets care. Most of it goes to benefit of people who never served or wore a military uniform. Where is the rest of it going? Those who protested Military conscription against war learned same, as did I: we had nothing to lose in not cooperating with society and culture that were our true enemies. Only by losing everything I once was misled to believe was worth having, gaining and defending did I come to realize all of it was for nothing. I paid a life, but kept my soul, learning that humble lesson. Humans are masters at creating idols and ‘gods/goddesses’ from dust to worship and scapegoat for the race’s frailties: humans carve their fears into idols and then believe in, demonize and worship them as ‘gods.’ I lost it all to learn nothing plus or minus nothing remains nothing. America loves her Veterans so long as we stay out of sight, mind, and are not a bother, do not cost the nation anything, and pay for the country’s first class free ride and lunch tickets.